

CITING MULTIPLE AUTHORS AND USING "ET AL."

When citing a source created by two or more authors, use the phrase “et al.” to indicate that you’re giving credit to many authors for a source. Each formatting style (MLA 9th, APA 7th, and Turabian 9th) has different expectations for citing sources written by more than two authors. This guide summarizes those expectations.

The abbreviation *et al.* is Latin for “and others.”

MLA FORMAT (9TH EDITION)¹

Narrative and Parenthetical Citations: When citing sources with **three or more** authors, use “et al” for parenthetical citations and “and others” or “and colleagues” for narrative citations.

Author Type	Parenthetical Citation	Narrative Citation
One Author	(Jacobs 74)	Jacobs states ... (74).
Two Authors	(Dorris and Erdrich 236)	Dorris and Erdrich state ... (236).
Three or More Authors	(Charon et al. 37)	Charon and colleagues state ... (37).

Works Cited List

Author Type	Works Cited List
One Author	Jacobs, Alan. <i>The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction</i> . Oxford UP, 2011.
Two Authors	Dorris, Michael, and Louise Erdrich. <i>The Crown of Columbus</i> . HarperCollins Publishers, 1999.
Three or More Authors	Charon, Rita, et al. <i>The Principles and Practice of Narrative Medicine</i> . Oxford UP, 2017.

¹ Modern Language Association of America, *MLA Handbook*, 9th ed. (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2021). Sec. 5.6-5.8.

Narrative and Parenthetical Citations: When citing sources with **three or more** authors, use “et al.”

Author Type	Parenthetical Citation	Narrative Citation
One Author	(Luna, 2020, p. 22)	Luna (2020) stated ... (p. 22).
Two Authors	(Salas & D’Agostino, 2020, p. 743)	Salas and D’Agostino (2020) stated ... (p. 743).
Three or More Authors	(Martin et al., 2020, p. 116)	Martin et al. (2020) stated ... (p. 116).

References: List the authors as they are presented in the source. When referring to sources with **twenty-one or more** authors, use an ellipsis between the nineteenth author’s name and the final author’s name.

Author Type	Reference
One Author	Goldman, C. (2018, November 28). The complicated calibration of love, especially in adoption. <i>Chicago Tribune</i> .
Two Authors	McCauley, S. M., & Christiansen, M. H. (2019). Language learning as language use: A cross-linguistic model of child language development. <i>Psychological Review</i> , 126(1), 1–51. https://doi.org/10.1037/rev0000126
Multiple (3 - 20) Authors	Huestegge, S. M., Raettig, T., & Huestegge, L. (2019). Are face-incongruent voices harder to process? Effects of face–voice gender incongruency on basic cognitive information processing. <i>Experimental Psychology</i> . Advance online publication. https://doi.org/10.1027/1618-3169/a000440
Twenty-One or More Authors	Kalnay, E., Kanamitsu, M., Kistler, R., Collins, W., Deaven, D., Gandin, L., Iredell, M., Saha, S., White, G., Woollen, J., Zhu, Y., Chelliah, M., Ebisuzaki, W., Higgins, W., Janowiak, J., Mo, K. C., Ropelewski, C., Wang, J., Leetmaa, A., . . . Joseph, D. (1996). The NCEP/NCAR 40-year reanalysis project. <i>Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society</i> , 77(3), 437–471. http://doi.org/fg6rf9

² American Psychological Association, *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 7th ed. (Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2020). Secs. 8.17, 9.8, & 10.1; Table 8.1.

Footnotes: When citing sources with **four or more** authors, use “et al.”

Bibliography: Write out all of the authors’ names regardless of the number of authors.

NOTE: When citing outside sources, try to refer to the authors’ names at the beginning of your sentences. Doing so will highlight how you have done research on the topic and improve your credibility as a writer. Refer to the [“Ghost Writing”](#) handout for more information. When using “et al.” in a sentence, use plural pronouns when discussing the authors.

	Footnotes	Bibliography
One Author	1. Angela Duckworth, <i>Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance</i> (New York: Scribner, 2016), 82.	Duckworth, Angela. <i>Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance</i> . New York: Scribner, 2016.
Two Authors	2. Susanne Y.P. Choi and Yinni Peng, <i>Masculine Promise: Migration, Family, and Gender in China</i> (Oakland: University of California Press, 2016), 111-12.	Choi, Susanne Y.P., and Yinni Peng. <i>Masculine Promise: Migration, Family, and Gender in China</i> . Oakland: University of California Press, 2016.
Three Authors	3. Karen White, Beatriz Williams, and Lauren Willig, <i>The Forgotten Room...</i>	White, Karen, Beatriz Williams, and Lauren Willig. <i>The Forgotten Room...</i>
Four or More Authors	4. Barry Eichengreen et al., <i>The Korean Economy...</i>	Eichengreen, Barry, Wonhyuk Lim, Yung Chul Park, and Dwight H. Perkins. <i>The Korean Economy...</i>

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³ Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*, 9th ed. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2018). Fig. 16.1.